



Attorney Docket No. 2405/0167

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mads Liendgaard Vigh et al.

Serial No.: 09/255,655

Filed: February 23, 1999

For: USE OF D-TAGATOSE AS A  
PREBIOTIC FOOD  
COMPONENT

Group Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: H. Owens, Jr.

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY**

This reply is filed in response to the Office Action of December 13, 2002. A request for extension of time of three months and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this reply. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and remarks below are respectfully requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer and add claims 13-21.

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (new) A method for selectively inducing production of butyrate by bacteria in the colon of a human in need thereof comprising administering D-tagatose to said human in a daily amount of 5-30 grams to selectively induce production of butyrate.

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